



Visitor Uses Fact Sheet

McNary National Wildlife Refuge

Overview

The Tri-Cities of Pasco, Kennewick, and Richland, Washington provide a population base of more than 140,000 in proximity to the Refuge. The Refuge consists of nine units: Burbank Sloughs, McNary Sloughs, Strawberry Island, Hanford Islands, Two Rivers, Peninsula, Wallula, Juniper Canyon, and State Line. Most of the public use that occurs at McNary Refuge consists of hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and environmental education visits.

A separate fact sheet describing hunting opportunities is available.

Public Use Facilities

McNary Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center

The Center is staffed by volunteers, Friends of Mid-Columbia River Refuge members, and Refuge Staff. The popular education programs is used by over 3,500 students and adults

annually. The Center provides educational and interpretive programs. The Center also has many bird mounts on display which are on loan from the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society. Since the Center is staffed mainly by volunteers, hours of operation vary seasonally.

Wildlife Viewing Telescopes

On the exterior deck of the McNary Environmental Education Center are two permanently mounted telescopes. Even when the Center is closed, the public can use the scopes to view wildlife on the nearby ponds.

Accessible trail with accessible Wildlife Viewing/ Photography Blind

A 1,800 foot paved pathway leads from the Environmental Education Center to an accessible wildlife viewing/photography blind.

2.1 Mile Interpretive Trail

The 2.1 mile interpretive trail follows the edge of McNary Slough and then leads hikers out into the surrounding shrub-steppe environment. There are several short side trails off the main trail that bring bird watchers between hedgerows or out to viewing points to allow for better wildlife viewing.

Tule Mat Lodge

The lodge is located at the edge of McNary Slough and serves as an educational tool for tribal culture and history. It was made from tules by students enrolled in Burbank schools, in partnership with the Wanapum People and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Local schoolchildren participating in environmental education at the McNary Environmental Education Center. Photo by Friends group

Heated Outdoor Restroom

A heated outdoor restroom with running water is available in the main parking lot of the Refuge off Maple Street in Burbank.

Two Accessible Fishing Piers

The larger and more popular accessible fishing pier is located on the Two Rivers Unit at Quarry Pond. The second and smaller accessible fishing pier is located on the Wallula Unit at the boat launch and enables disabled fishermen to fish the Walla Walla River.

Madam Dorion Campground

A primitive campground is located on the Wallula Unit. The Madam Dorion Campground has potable water, vault toilets, picnic tables, a trash dumpster, a grassy area for pitching tents, and a gravel area for recreational vehicle parking.

Miles of Public Roads

Paved, gravel and dirt roads throughout the refuge give the public access to hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation areas.

Last but not Least.....over 15,000 Acres of Wildlife Habitat and Wildlife-dependent Recreation Lands

Special Events

National Wildlife Refuge Day

Refuge Day is held each October to celebrate the National Wildlife Refuge System. Volunteers and refuge staff present programs, bird and plant walks, and various children's hands-on activities.

Second Saturdays Events

This monthly event is held at McNary Refuge Environmental Education Center. The Center opens its doors to the general public and hosts special speakers, activities, walks, and exhibits. Topics for the 2004 season include native plants, water insects, amphibians, Lewis and Clark history, animal bone identification, duck

stamp collecting, hunting and fishing information and demonstrations, and duck banding.

Migratory Bird Day

Birding walks are available at the refuge with refuge staff and volunteers.

Green Wing Teal Day

A partnership with Ducks Unlimited, the Richland Rod and Gun Club, and the Refuge enables children to learn more about waterfowl. Hands-on activities during the day include duck banding and duck calling.

Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement is provided by Federal and State Fish and Wildlife Officers. Partnerships with the Washington State Patrol and the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Department provide for additional emergency services .

For more information

This fact sheet was authored by Art Shine, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Refuge Complex.

Do you have questions? Please feel free to contact Art at Refuge headquarters at (509) 545-8588.